



Ref. T2/6.06

COMSAR/Circ.26
10 May 2001

**OPERATIONAL AND SERVICE IMPLICATIONS FOR NUMBERING PLAN
FORMATS FOR MOBILE-SATELLITE COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS
PARTICIPATING IN THE GMDSS**

1 The Sub-Committee on Radiocommunications and Search and Rescue (COMSAR), at its fifth session (11 to 15 December 2000), concurred with a proposal on amending the ITU Radio Regulations to clarify numbering principles for future mobile-satellite communication systems which could participate in the GMDSS.

2 With a view to assist Administrations when preparing contributions to the relevant ITU Study Groups, the Sub-Committee agreed on operational and service implications for numbering plan formats, given at annex.

3 Member Governments are invited to use the annexed guidance principles on numbering, bring them to the attention of all parties concerned and urge their national delegations to the ITU to support the relevant proposals when they are available.

ANNEX

OPERATIONAL AND SERVICE IMPLICATIONS FOR NUMBERING PLAN FORMATS FOR MOBILE-SATELLITE COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS PARTICIPATING IN THE GMDSS

Background

1 The GMDSS was developed under the assumption that all radio systems aboard ships would use the Maritime Mobile Service Identities (MMSI) as the ship's telephone number.

2 ITU-T Study Group (SG) 2 liaison requested the COM Sub-Committee to review its requirement to have the ship telephone number related to the MMSI so that modifications to the Inmarsat numbering plan could be considered to avoid inefficient use and possible exhaust of this finite resource. IMO provided in liaison to ITU-T the clarification that the requirement to relate the ship's telephone number to the MMSI is no longer valid (see paragraphs 11.24 and 11.25 of the final report of COM 40 – document COM 40/22).

3 There was no intent by IMO to impose the required relationship between the MMSI and the ship's telephone number on future generations of mobile communication systems which may have a GMDSS application.

4 ITU-T (WP1/2) is studying the implications of free form numbering in respect of the GMDSS. ITU-R Working Party 8B is developing the technical basis for proposals to WRC-03 on Resolution 344 (WRC-97) on "*Exhaustion of the maritime mobile service identity numbering resource*".

5 New mobile-satellite systems and mobile systems are evolving which may have future application to the GMDSS. There are certain ITU Radio Regulations, Recommendations and Resolutions which may have some constraints on new and existing mobile and mobile-satellite systems by requiring them to embed the MMSI into their numbering structures. These inhibit further development of mobile-satellite systems for use in the GMDSS and these should be examined with a view to eliminating any such constraints.

Guidance Principles

6 Numbering plans and associated formats for future mobile-satellite systems participating in the GMDSS should not have to embed the Maritime Identification Digits (MID) or MMSI in the unique terminal address.

7 For the purposes of distress and safety communications, where the associated RCC requires additional information such as the ship's name, call sign, MMSI, flag state and emergency contact details, there should be a capability to provide this information to the associated RCC on demand and on a 24-hour a day basis.

8 The point of registration of any maritime mobile-satellite equipment should immediately notify the appropriate flag State Administration concerning the details of the installation.

9 All future generations of mobile-satellite communication systems participating in the GMDSS should comply with paragraphs 6, 7 and 8 above.

10 There could be an adverse impact on the MID resource if the existing regional numbering structure is maintained. However, due to lack of utilisation of this resource for regional purposes since its inception, the present regional basis of the existing MID plan no longer appears to be valid.

Ongoing activities

11 Preparations for the agenda item 1.10.1 of the 2003 ITU World Radiocommunication Conference concerning further action on Resolution 344 (WRC-97) and the conservation of the MMSI resource should take account of the following:

- .1 the MMSI resource is, in principle, sufficient for all existing mobile communication systems participating in the GMDSS provided that simple administrative measures are applied to conserve the numbering resource, such as number re-use and compliance with Recommendation ITU-R M.585-2, taking into account No.S20.16 of the Radio Regulations; and
- .2 there could be an adverse impact on the MID resource but only if the existing regional numbering structure is maintained.

12 The MMSI resource is not sufficient to cater for additional mobile-satellite systems if the original practice of embedding MIDs and MMSIs within the ship telephone number is continued. The introduction of free form numbering, that is a numbering plan which may not be compliant with Article S.19 of the Radio Regulations and the associated Recommendations ITU-T E.210, E.211, E.215 and ITU-R M.585-2, would facilitate the participation of future generations of mobile communication systems in the GMDSS.

13 Compatible proposals should be elaborated within ITU-T Study Group 2, ITU-R WP8B; following which any necessary amendments to Article S.19, ITU-T Recommendations E.210, 211, E.215 and Recommendation ITU-R M.585-2 should be considered. The ITU fora involved are encouraged to inform IMO and the Sub-Committee of progress.

14 The Sub-Committee urges Members to support the consequential actions in the ITU as follows:

- .1 to revise ITU-T Recommendations E.210 and 211 in light of current operational requirements and practice; and produce a new draft ITU-T Recommendation which would provide operational principles for the provision of GMDSS functions, taking into account the relevant aspects of resolution A.888(21);
- .2 to revise Recommendation ITU-R M.585-2 with a view to improve the guidance to Administrations on conserving the MMSI resource; and
- .3 to modify Article S.19, sections I and VI of the Radio Regulations in particular, to remove any ambiguity regarding the use of free form numbering for ship earth stations.